



US006550149B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Dowdell

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,550,149 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 22, 2003**

(54) **METHOD FOR SIZING FEET**

- (75) **Inventor:** Mark Dowdell, 777 Leslie Valley Dr.,
Newmarket, Ontario (CA), L3Y 7K7
- (73) **Assignee:** Mark Dowdell, Nwmarket (CA)
- (*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) **Appl. No.:** 09/844,676

(22) **Filed:** Apr. 30, 2001

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2002/0157266 A1 Oct. 31, 2002

- (51) **Int. Cl.⁷** A43D 1/00
- (52) **U.S. Cl.** 33/6; 33/512
- (58) **Field of Search** 33/3 R, 6, 515,
33/512

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

1,331,823 A	2/1920	Phillips	
1,725,334 A *	8/1929	Brannock	33/3 B
4,266,553 A *	5/1981	Faiella	36/144
4,395,826 A *	8/1983	Bidegain et al.	33/3 C
4,522,777 A *	6/1985	Peterson	36/154
4,567,617 A	2/1986	Limbach	12/142 P
4,635,366 A	1/1987	Fohrman et al.	33/3 B
4,677,766 A *	7/1987	Gudas	36/43
4,931,773 A	6/1990	Rosen	340/573
4,993,429 A *	2/1991	Krinsky	33/515
5,014,041 A	5/1991	Rosen	340/573
5,123,169 A *	6/1992	White et al.	33/3 C
5,128,880 A	7/1992	White	364/550
5,206,804 A	4/1993	Thies et al.	364/401

(List continued on next page.)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE	198 00 086 A	7/1999
EP	1 051 925 A	11/2000

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Weebok—www.weebok.com/lib/weebokstore/weebok-size.pdf—ChildrenSizeChart—printed Apr. 18, 2001.
KidsNShoes—www.kidsnshoes.com/images/ruler.jpg—The Size Ruler—printed Apr. 2, 2001.
Payless ShoeSource—www.payless.com/corporate/customer_service/custsvc_faq_knowourshoes_shoesizer.html—Kids Shoe Sizer—printed Mar. 3, 2001.
Shoebuy—www.shoebuy.com/customer/charts.shtml—Fitting—printed Apr. 23, 2001.
Nike Shoes—www.nike.com/usa/index.html—Foot Measurement Chart—printed Apr. 23, 2001.

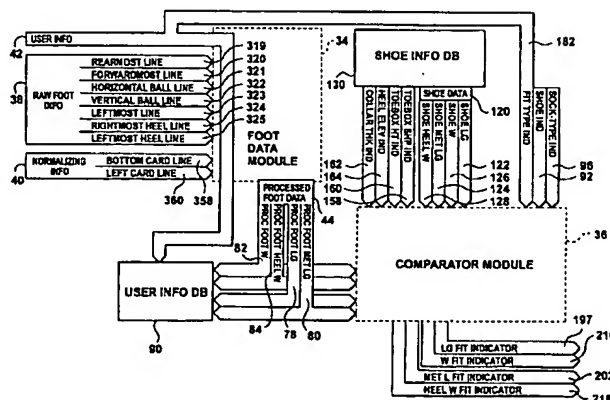
Primary Examiner—G. Bradley Bennett

(74) **Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Timothy J. Sinnott;
Bereskin & Parr

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for sizing one's feet for shoes, and for the fitting of shoes. The system includes a computer having a fitting program, which receives foot data from a user, and shoe data for a selected shoe from a shoe information database and compares them, determining a fit indicator for each compared property. The foot and shoe data includes the length, the metatarsal length, the width and the heel width. A useful shoe length is calculated by the program based on the shoe length and several modifiers including the elevation of the heel, the thickness of the collar and the shape and height of the toebox. The program also receives a sock type indicator from the user, indicating a selected sock to be worn with the selected shoe, and accounts for the thickness of the selected sock when determining the fit indicator. The system enables a person to determine a shoe fit, without the need for trying on the selected shoe. The foot data received by the program is obtained using a foot sizing chart that can be downloaded and printed by the user from an Internet web site containing the program, or by use of a scanner. Because the user can inadvertently print the chart at an unknown scale, the program can automatically normalize the foot data received from the user, by determining both the horizontal and vertical scale factors at which the chart was printed.

11 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets



US-PAT-NO: 6550149

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6550149 B2

TITLE: Method for sizing feet

----- KWIC -----

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (6):

With the growth of the Internet, the concept of mail order purchasing has been significantly revised and improved. There are many companies offering Internet-based services for ordering clothing. A major advantage of the Internet is that a consumer can have almost instantaneous contact with a supplier or web site offering clothing, etc. for sale. The consumer can additionally see images of items for sale on a screen and print out pages from a supplier's web site. Many companies have attempted to use these characteristics to provide improved service to consumers and in particular to address the issue of selecting a correct shoe size.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (7):

Several companies, including Weebok.TM. and Payless Shoe Source.TM., provide shoe sizing systems on their Internet web sites which are respectively www.weebok.com and www.payless.com/corporate/customer_service/custsvc_faq_knowourshoes_shoesizer.html and nike.com. A consumer with Internet access and a printer, may print a shoe size chart from the web site, and use the chart to size the consumer's feet. This system provides the shoe size chart very quickly, relative to the system described above. However, it often occurs that the shoe sizing chart is inadvertently printed at the incorrect scale. The measurements taken using the chart can therefore be in error due to the scale at which it is printed. The scale can differ in the horizontal and vertical directions.